

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/074,062

Examiner

Charles I. Boyer

Applicant(s)

OFOSU-ASANTE ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to applicants' request for continued examination received Nov 18, 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1, 6, 7 and 9-20.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 1/8/06.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

CHARLES BOYER
PRIMARY EXAMINER



EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mark Charles on January 3, 2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

Delete claim 1 and insert new claim 1 as follows:

A soil redeposition inhibiting article comprising:

a) an effective amount of a soil redeposition inhibiting agent selected from the group consisting of cyclodextrin, uncomplexed cyclodextrin, zeolite, activated carbon, silicas, doped silicas, zinc oxides, and mixtures thereof and

b) a dryer containment bag, said dryer containment bag having an internal volume of from about 10,000 cm³ to about 25,000 cm³;

wherein said soil redeposition inhibiting agent and a soil-containing dry, or essentially dry, fabric is contained within said dryer containment bag, such that said soil redeposition inhibiting agent is capable of controlling soils and said soil redeposition inhibiting article contains an effective amount of said soil redeposition inhibiting agent to provide a reduction in soil present on a dry or essentially dry fabric upon being exposed

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to said dry fabrics, especially in a heated environment, as compared to a dry or essentially dry fabric not exposed to said soil redeposition inhibiting agent.

Cancel claims 2-5

Delete claim 6 and insert new claim 6 as follows:

The article according to Claim 1 wherein said soil redeposition inhibiting agents are non-volatile soil redeposition inhibiting agents.

Delete claim 7 and insert new claim 7 as follows:

The article according to Claim 6 wherein said non-volatile soil redeposition inhibiting agents comprise a material that reacts with amines, sulfur-containing compounds, fatty acids, and mixtures thereof.

Cancel claim 8

In line 1 of claim 9, delete "8" and insert -1—therefor

In line 2 of claim 13, delete "types of non-volatile"

Delete claim 14 and insert new claim 14 as follows:

A method for removing soil from a soil-containing fabric comprising placing a

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soil redeposition inhibiting article according to Claim 1 in soil influencing proximity of said soil-containing fabric such that soil from said soil-containing fabric is reduced.

Delete claim 17 and insert new claim 17 as follows:

A system for removing soils from a soil-containing dry or essentially dry fabric, comprising placing the soil-containing dry or essentially dry fabric in soil-influencing proximity to a soil redeposition inhibiting agent selected from the group consisting of cyclodextrin, uncomplexed cyclodextrin, zeolite, activated carbon, silicas, doped silicas, zinc oxides, and mixtures thereof;

such that the soil present on the soil-containing dry or essentially dry fabric is reduced and placing the soil-containing dry or essentially dry fabric and the soil-redeposition inhibiting agent in a dryer containment bag, said dryer containment bag having an internal volume of from about 10,000 cm³ to about 25,000 cm³.

Delete claim 19 and insert new claim 19 as follows:

A kit comprising:

- a) at least one soil redeposition inhibiting article according to Claim 1; and
- b) optionally, a stain removal solution; and
- c) optionally, an absorbent stain receiver article; and
- d) optionally, instructions for using said soil redeposition inhibiting article to remove soils from a soil-containing dry or essentially dry fabric; and
- e) optionally, a cleaning refreshment composition, preferably contained in a cleaning

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sheet.

Delete claim 20 and insert new claim 20 as follows:

A kit comprising:

- a) at least one soil redeposition inhibiting article according to claim 1; and
- b) instructions comprising placing the at least one soil-redeposition inhibiting article in soil influencing proximity to a soil-containing fabric article in need of treatment.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Applicants have claimed a soil redeposition inhibiting article according to claim 1 as set forth above. Dryer containment bags are known in the art. They are typically used in conjunction with fabric "refreshment" compositions which contain surfactants, solvents, and perfumes, and such compositions are typically impregnated on a sheet. The prior art does not teach the soil redeposition inhibiting agents presently claimed as being used in conjunction with a dryer containment bag. Note that all of the agents claimed are well known in the art as being used in solid form, and therefore could not be easily entrained in a sheet as is typically used with a dryer containment bag. It would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the solid soil redeposition inhibiting agents claimed in a dryer containment bag in order to arrive at applicants' soil redeposition inhibiting article. Accordingly, the present claims are allowable.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

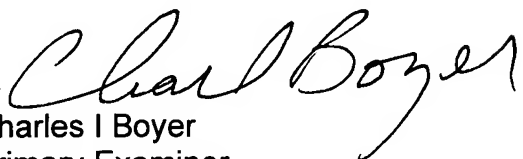
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accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Charles I. Boyer whose telephone number is 571 272 1311. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:30 to 6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Yogendra Gupta can be reached on 571 272 1316. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Charles I Boyer
Primary Examiner
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